

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8-14 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1-7 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A service method of a rental storage, in which [[a]] rental storage users use[[s]] the rental storage provided by a storage provider or a network and each of said rental storage users and said storage provider communicate with respect to rental storage service, comprising the steps of:
 - using storage of said storage provider by each of the rental storage users;
 - providing by the storage provider an estimation of a data amount in the rental storage for future storage usage of each of said rental storage user, based on the history of storage usage of each of said rental storage user; and
 - reporting the estimation to each of said rental storage users.
2. (Currently Amended) A service method of a rental storage, in which [[a]] rental storage users use[[s]] the rental storage provided by a rental storage service provider on a network and each of said rental storage service users and said rental storage service provider communicate with respect to rental storage service, comprising the steps of:
 - making a contract between said rental storage service provider and each of said rental storage service users so as to configure contract options based on the contract of use of storage service;
 - using storage of said rental storage service provider by each of the rental storage service users;
 - reporting a charge to each of the rental storage service users by the rental storage service provider;
 - paying the charge for the use of said storage by each of the rental storage service users to the rental storage service provider;
 - reporting the history of storage usage record and an estimated amount of data of storage usage to each of the rental storage service users from the rental storage service provider; and
 - reconfiguring said contract options by said rental storage service provider.

3. (Currently Amended) A service method of a rental storage, in which [[a]] rental storage users use[[s]] the rental storage provided by a rental storage service provider on a network and each of said rental storage service users and said rental storage service provider communicate with respect to rental storage service, comprising the steps of:
- using storage of said rental storage service provider by each of said rental storage service users;
- when said rental storage service provider and each of said rental storage service users make a contract and the contract options based on the contract of use of said storage specifies a charge system for contracted amount of data according to predetermined usage;
- estimating by said rental storage service provider amount of data of storage usage in the future based on the history of amount of data of storage usage by each of said rental storage service users;
- proposing to each of said rental storage service users a recommended contract on an amount of data according to the estimation.
4. (Currently Amended) A service method of a rental storage set forth in claim 3, in which: the step of proposing to each of said rental storage service users a recommended contract on the amount of data include the substep of: proposing reduction of amount of data contracted for the storage usage if the storage usage estimated is less than the currently contracted storage usage.
5. (Currently Amended) A service method of a rental storage set forth in claim 3, in which:
- when each of said rental storage service users updates said contract options in accordance with a desirable amount of data of storage usage recommended by said rental storage service provider,
- if the amount of data of storage usage by each of said rental storage service users exceeds the contracted amount of data for storage usage reconfigured within the contract period of the contract,
- each of said rental storage service users will be allowed using the storage service for the data beyond the contracted amount of said storage usage.

6. (Currently Amended) A service method of a rental storage set forth in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

proposing by said rental storage service provider a reduction plan of the amount of data of storage usage used by each of said rental storage service users; and

reducing the amount of data of storage usage used by each of said rental storage service users in accordance with the recommended reduction plan of data,

wherein the step of reconfiguring said contract options is performed after the step of proposing by said rental storage service provider and the step of reducing the amount of data of storage usage used by each of said rental storage service users.

7. (Currently Amended) A service method of a rental storage set forth in claim 6, in which: when each of said rental storage service users deletes data in use in accordance with the recommended reduction plan of the amount of data of storage usage, said rental storage service provider duplicates on a portable medium a backup copy of the data specified to delete by each of said rental storage service users; and said rental storage service provider sends the backup copy of the data to each of the rental storage service users.

- 8-14. (Cancelled)